

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: DESALINATION: VISIT OF PRINCE MOHAMMED

REFERENCE: JIDDA 4111

1. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MORTON WOULD BE PLEASED TO EXTEND INVITATION TO PRINCE MOHAMMED FOR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JULY 17 AND 18, FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN KEY LARGO, FLORIDA.

2. SECRETARY MORTON COULD KICK OFF DAYS ACTIVITY AND HOST LUNCH FOR PRINCE AND PARTY.

3. UNDER SECRETARY TABOR COULD CHAIR WORKING SESSION WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO BE FOLLOWED BY MEETING WITH INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES.

4. BELIEVE CONTEXT OF PARA 2 REFTEL IS MOST SIGNIFICANT. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ESSENCE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF THE INITIALLY SUGGESTED FACT FINDING MISSION MAY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED. HOPE PRINCE WOULD DISCUSS SPECIFICS FOR CONTRACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHING SAUDI ARABIA'S DESALINATION

GOALS, EITHER FORMALLY OR IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION TO INDUSTRY AT KEY LARGO CONFERENCE. IF SUCH IS THE CASE, THEME OF WASHINGTON MEETING COULD COMPLEMENT SAUDI DECISION AND WORK TOWARDS OBTAINING THE REQUIRED MAJOR U.S. INDUSTRY COMMITMENT.

5. IF NO STATEMENT IS FORTHCOMING AT KEY LARGO U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPHASIS WILL BE TO POINT OUT THAT CURRENT SAUDI CONTRACTING PRACTICES ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF SAUDI OBJECTIVES AND THAT IF THERE IS ANY AMERICAN RESPONSE IT WILL PROBABLY BE AT GREATLY ESCALATED PRICES SO AS TO MINIMIZE U.S. INDUSTRIES FINANCIAL RISKS AND EXPOSURE.

6. BRIEF OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE MEETING SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

JULY 17, 9:30 MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, 10:00 GOVERNMENT WORKING SESSION, 12:30 LUNCHEON, 1400 OPEN MEETING WITH INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES, JULY 18 OPEN FOR PRIVATE MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY, IF DESIRED.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO EXTEND INVITATION TO PRINCE TO VISIT WASHINGTON JULY 17-18 ON BEHALF SECRETARY MORTON AND TO EXPLORE PRINCE'S THOUGHTS, IF ANY REGARDING CONTENT OF WASHINGTON VISIT. KISSINGER

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